

## 5. Tools for Delivering Financial Outreach

### Introduction

Financial outreach has proven to be very important for community environmental programs and small businesses because of the multiplicity and complexity of constantly changing environmental regulations, both federal and state, and the need to finance, operate, improve, or construct facilities to comply with these regulations. Financial outreach can be a critical link between environmental mandates and implementation of these mandates by local managers.

Two types of financial outreach tools are presented in this section: **institutional arrangements and electronic services**. The institutional arrangements presented include organizations, initiatives, and mechanisms that support the financing of environmental programs, systems, and projects. The electronic services presented include Websites that provide information on funding mechanisms and software programs that are tools for financial planning.

The institutional arrangements in this section tend to be independent, innovative, and non-bureaucratic in nature. They typically involve face-to-face, hands-on training, and are project specific. They often encourage significant client involvement ranging from detailed feedback and cooperation to direct project participation and funding. As a result, the quality of the outreach and technical assistance they provide is enhanced and their services are financially leveraged.

Using electronic services, people can interact and access information in ways that are often very cost effective and save time as well. Properly implemented, electronic services can help control resource consumption and pollution by reducing paper use, cutting transportation and fuel costs, and thus preventing related air, water and land pollution. In addition to the electronic services described in this section, some electronic services for businesses are discussed in Section 10 of the Guidebook.

Note: Suggestions for additional financial outreach tools for inclusion in this Guidebook are welcome.

## **List of Financial Outreach Tools**

1. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: Environmental Finance Program
2. Environmental Finance Center (EFC) Network
3. Region 1 Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maine
4. Region 2 Environmental Finance Center at the Maxwell School, Syracuse University
5. Region 3 Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland
6. Region 4 Environmental Finance Center at the University of North Carolina
7. Region 4 Environmental Finance Center at the University of Louisville
8. Region 5 Environmental Finance Center at Cleveland State University
9. Region 6 Environmental Finance Center at the University of New Mexico
10. Region 9 Environmental Finance Center at California State University at East Bay
11. Region 10 Environmental Finance Center at Boise State University
12. Boise State University Environmental Finance Center: Plan2Fund
13. Boise State University Environmental Finance Center: CAP Finance
14. Finance Charrettes
15. Border Environmental Cooperation Commission
16. Rural Community Assistance Corporation
17. Self-Help
18. Circuit Riders
19. Cooperatives
20. Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Capacity Development
21. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: Water and Wastewater Pricing Website
22. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: Enforcement Economic Models
23. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: Green Power Locator
24. U.S. Department of Energy: Financial Opportunities Website
25. U.S. Department of Energy Alternative Fuels Data Center: State and Federal Incentives and Laws Website
26. National Technical Assistance Programs
27. National Rural Water Association
28. Rocky Mountain Institute
29. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: Water Efficiency Market Enhancement Program
30. Environmental Council of the States
31. Pollution Prevention Resource Exchange
32. Energy Efficiency Organizations
33. U.S. Department of Energy: Industrial Assessment Centers
34. Catalogue of Federal Domestic Assistance
35. Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy (DSIRE)
36. U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection
37. Boise State University Environmental Finance Center: Directory of Watershed Resources

## **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: Environmental Finance Program**

**Description:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Finance Program works in partnership with state and local governments, tribes, and the private sector to help fund environmental protection initiatives. The Program provides leveraged financial outreach services to these partners through three distinct, but related components: the Environmental Financial Advisory Board (EFAB), the Environmental Finance Center (EFC) Network, and the Environmental Financing Information Network (EFIN).

EFAB, a federally chartered advisory committee, provides innovative ideas and recommendations to the EPA on ways to lower the costs of, increase investments in, and promote public-private partnerships with regard to environmental and public health protection. The EFC Network, consisting of nine university-based programs in eight EPA regions, delivers targeted technical assistance on addressing the “how to pay” issues of meeting environmental standards. EFIN catalogues the work and accomplishments of EFAB and the EFC Network, and provides abstracts of valuable [Environmental Finance Program publications](#), and some EPA publications, through its highly popular Website, telephone Infoline, and contact referral service.

**Reference for Further Information:** Environmental Finance Program Website: <http://www.epa.gov/efinpage>, EFIN Infoline: 202-564-4994. The EFC Network is described in this section of the Guidebook.

### **Environmental Finance Center (EFC) Network**

**Description:** The Environmental Finance Center (EFC) Network is a system of nine university-based Environmental Finance Centers that provide state and local governments and the private sector with training and educational, technical, and analytic assistance on environmental finance (see the individual descriptions of the nine Finance Centers on the following pages). These services are designed around the “how to pay” issues of environmental compliance. The EFC Network has become a significant force in assisting local governments and small businesses in meeting environmental standards. A central goal of the Network is to help create sustainable environmental systems in the public and private sectors. Coordination of the EFC Network is provided by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Finance Program.

**Reference for Further Information:** Contact: Vera Hannigan, E-mail [hannigan.vera@epa.gov](mailto:hannigan.vera@epa.gov), Phone # 202-564-5001. EFC Network information and a Website for each EFC can be accessed via the Environmental Finance Program’s Website at <http://www.epa.gov/efinpage>. The Environmental Finance Program is described in this section of the Guidebook.

## **Region 1 Environmental Finance Center at the University of Southern Maine**

**Description:** Founded in 2001, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 1 Environmental Finance Center is housed in the Edmund S. Muskie School of Public Service at the University of Southern Maine. Called the New England EFC or NE/EFC, it serves the six states of New Hampshire, Maine, Connecticut, Vermont, Rhode Island, and Massachusetts. The NE/EFC addresses the "how-to-pay" questions associated with creative approaches to environmental protection and management, especially by developing and applying "smart growth" and other land-use techniques that go beyond compliance with government regulations.

In developing its programs, the NE/EFC identifies the research, education, and technical assistance needs of an array of clients from land trusts, developers, and municipalities, to state governments and agencies of the federal government. The NE/EFC offers what it calls Collaborative Environmental Services tailored to the needs of individual organizations or local governments. These include assistance in facilitating local dialogues and exploration of creative ways to make needed conservation and development decisions feasible, financially and otherwise. The EFC has also developed a program called the Next Communities Initiative, to train community leaders how to bring about constructive changes in local land use decision-making.

**Reference for Further Information:** Region 1 EFC Website: <http://efc.muskie.usm.maine.edu>, E-mail: [neefc@usm.maine.edu](mailto:neefc@usm.maine.edu), Phone: 207-780-4418.

## **Region 2 Environmental Finance Center at Syracuse University**

**Description:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 2 Environmental Finance Center (EFC) is located at Syracuse University's Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs. The EFC provides training, technical assistance, and outreach services to State and local officials related to financing environmental initiatives. Its areas of focus include the promotion of full-cost pricing of environmental services, the exploration of environmental service management options such as privatization, and the facilitation of public input processes in local communities.

The EFC's projects and accomplishments are in areas including asset management, technical assistance, and partnerships. In 2005, it worked with EPA to co-host an asset management workshop in Syracuse. Ongoing initiatives of the EFC include a Public Management and Finance Program designed to offer a more comprehensive and holistic way for communities to benefit from technical assistance, and a partnership with the NYS Department of Environmental Conservation, NY Rural Water Association and NY Water Environment Association to provide a series of wastewater informational sessions for local government representatives.

**Reference for Further Information:** Region 2 Environmental Finance Center Website: <http://www.maxwell.syr.edu/efc/>, Phone (toll free): 866-536-4770.

### **Region 3 Environmental Finance Center at the University of Maryland**

**Description:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 3 Environmental Finance Center (EFC) is hosted by University of Maryland's Institute for Governmental Service. The mission of the EFC is to provide communities with the tools and information needed to manage change for a cleaner environment and an enhanced quality of life. This EFC is community-based, with a goal of developing livable communities within the Chesapeake Bay region that promote clean, safe neighborhoods and foster a sense of place for all citizens.

Through strengthening the capacity of local decision-makers to analyze environmental problems and develop innovative and effective ways of financing environmental efforts, the EFC strives to be a leader in community development and watershed protection. This EFC does significant amounts of work in the following areas: training for water utility systems managers, working with communities on storm water management, and community financing for local land and water protection.

**Reference for Further Information:** Region 3 Environmental Finance Center Website: <http://www.efc.umd.edu/who.html>, E-mail: [efc@umd.edu](mailto:efc@umd.edu), Phone: 301-403-4610 ext. 24.

### **Region 4 Environmental Finance Center at the University of North Carolina**

**Description:** The EPA Region 4 Environmental Finance Center (EFC) is contained within the University of North Carolina (UNC) Chapel Hill School of Government and services states and communities in the Southeastern United States. The UNC EFC assists communities, provides training and policy analysis services, and disseminates tools and resources on topics such as environmental cost accounting, rate setting, and the development of sustainable cost recovery and institutional management systems.

The UNC EFC reaches local communities through the delivery of interactive applied training programs and technical assistance. The EFC sees one of its major roles as increasing the capacity of other organizations to address the financial aspects of environmental protection. In addition to direct community outreach, the UNC EFC works with decision makers to assess the effectiveness of environmental finance policies at a regional or state level, and to improve those policies as a way of supporting local efforts.

**Reference for Further Information:** Region 4 Environmental Finance Center Website: [www.efc.unc.edu/index.html](http://www.efc.unc.edu/index.html). Contact information for Jeff Hughes, Director at the Region 4 EFC's University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill office: Phone # 919-843-4956, E-Mail [jhughes@sog.unc.edu](mailto:jhughes@sog.unc.edu). Contact information for Stacey Isaac Berahzer, Outreach Coordinator at the Region 4 EFC's Atlanta Office: Phone # 770-552-6847, E-mail [isaac@sog.unc.edu](mailto:isaac@sog.unc.edu).

## **Region 4 Environmental Finance Center at the University of Louisville**

**Description:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 4 Environmental Finance Center (EFC) at the University of Louisville is part of the University's Center for Environmental Policy and Management. The Region 4 EFC's primary service area is the Southeastern United States. The EFC has two broad mandates from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: 1.) to develop more environmentally and economically sustainable alternatives to uncontrolled and unfocused spatial expansion of human settlements, 2.) to improve the efficiency of environmental infrastructure service delivery.

The services offered by the EFC are divided into four main areas: 1.) Practice Guides, 2.) Research Result Notices, 3.) Financial Planning Support for Water Utilities, and 4.) Brownfields Redevelopment Support. The Practice Guide series is designed for government officials who make or implement policies that influence land use. The Research Result Notices make research results available to public officials via the internet. Through its Financial Planning Support for Water Utilities, the EFC provides training and technical support to operators of water utilities. The EFC's Brownfields Redevelopment Support initiatives are geared towards providing services to facilitate investment in the cleanup and reuse of properties that are perceived to be contaminated.

**Reference for Further Information:** Region 4 Environmental Finance Center at the University of Louisville Website: <http://cepm.louisville.edu/org/SEEFc/seefc.htm>, Phone: 502-852-8032, E-Mail: [pbmeyer@louisville.edu](mailto:pbmeyer@louisville.edu).

## **Region 5 Great Lakes Environmental Finance Center at Cleveland State University**

**Description:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 5 Great Lakes Environmental Finance Center (EFC) is located in the Maxine Goodman Levin College of Urban Affairs at Cleveland State University. The Great Lakes EFC serves a six-state area, encompassing Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Michigan, Wisconsin, and Minnesota. The EFC acts as a technical assistance, training, and research resource for state and local government, private sector, and non-profit organizations, helping to solve financial problems related to environmental facilities and resources.

One of the Great Lakes EFC's ongoing initiatives is providing Brownfields community site visit advisory services. Brownfields are properties whose financial potential is undermined by real or perceived contamination. The EFC provides professional training to state and local government officials, business executives, and others on environmental finance issues, strategies, and resources, helping clients make more effective use of financial resources for Brownfields redevelopment. The Great Lakes EFC's other projects include financial and economic analyses and market studies to support environmental project planning, development, and implementation, and the publication of research papers and documents.

**Reference for Further Information:** Region 5 Great Lakes EFC Website: <http://www.glefc.org/>, Phone: 216-687-2188. The EFC's publications are on its Website.

## **Region 6 Environmental Finance Center at New Mexico Tech**

**Description:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Region 6 Environmental Finance Center (EFC), also called the New Mexico Environmental Finance Center (NMEFC), is a program of New Mexico Tech's Institute of Mining and Technology. NMEFC provides technical assistance to state, tribal, and local governments and focuses on public and private water systems. The EFC seeks to identify viable financing options and promote low-cost, alternative, and appropriate technologies to achieve consistent and sustainable regulatory compliance and to develop sustainable infrastructure. The NMEFC seeks to develop and implement affordable pollution prevention and source reduction approaches, when possible. It aids New Mexico Tribal Drinking Water Utilities with public health protection measures pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA), including compliance with the new SDWA Arsenic Standard. The NMEFC has also been focusing its recent efforts on helping communities with asset management.

**Reference for Further Information:** New Mexico EFC Website: <http://efc.unm.edu/>, Phone #: 505-272-7280, E-mail address: [efc@efc.nmt.edu](mailto:efc@efc.nmt.edu).

## **Region 9 Environmental Finance Center at California State University at East Bay**

**Description:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 9 Environmental Finance Center (EFC9) is located at California State University at East Bay. EFC9 serves Arizona, California, Hawaii, Nevada, Guam, and the Marshall Islands. The mission of EFC9 is three-pronged: 1.) to encourage business to adopt source reduction, pollution prevention and energy efficiency; 2.) to encourage consumers to choose green products and services; and 3.) to help communities promote cleaner business. The EFC carries out many different types of initiatives including organization of conferences and workshops, local economic development, providing hands-on assistance to small businesses, and producing numerous publications.

Specific projects of EFC9 include production of a publication titled Wet Cleaning Guide Booklet, and working with television shows to educate viewers about ways to reduce their impact on the environment. EFC9 also acts as the Region 9 San Francisco Bay Area Green Business Program (GBP) Coordinator. The Bay Area GBP is a partnership of environmental agencies and utilities that assists, recognizes and promotes businesses and government agencies for conserving resources, preventing pollution and minimizing waste. In partnership with the Bay Area GBP, other GBPs located outside the Bay Area, the California Environmental Protection Agency, and the U.S. EPA, EFC9 helps to launch, coordinate, and promote GBPs.

**Reference for Further Information:** Region 9 EFC Website <http://www.efc9.org/>, E-mail [info@efc9.org](mailto:info@efc9.org), Phone 415-664-1174. Most of EFC9's publications are available on its Website. San Francisco Bay Area Green Business Program (GBP) Website: <http://www.greenbiz.ca.gov/>.

## **Region 10 Environmental Finance Center at Boise State University**

**Description:** The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Region 10 Environmental Finance Center, also called the Boise State EFC, was created in 1995 and is contained within the Department of Public Policy and Administration of the Boise State University (BSU) College of Social Sciences and Public Affairs. The Boise State EFC serves the Pacific Northwest and Intermountain states of Alaska, Idaho, Oregon and Washington. The EFC seeks to assist these states and their communities with environmental financing issues, and is committed to helping the regulated community build and improve upon the technical, managerial, and financial capabilities needed to comply with federal and state environmental laws.

The Boise State EFC is an important partner to state and local governments in addressing financing issues related to drinking water and wastewater treatment needs in small communities, helping those communities to meet requirements under the Safe Drinking Water Act of 1996. In addition, the EFC developed a financial planning software program for watersheds called Plan2Fund, and an integrated capital asset inventory and reinvestment analysis software program for water supply systems called CAPFinance. Both of these programs can be downloaded from the EFC's Website and are described in this section of the Guidebook.

**Reference for Further Information:** The Environmental Finance Center at Boise State University, Telephone: 208-426-1567, E-mail [cmorehea@boisestate.edu](mailto:cmorehea@boisestate.edu), Website: <http://sspa.boisestate.edu/efc/>.

## **Boise State University Environmental Finance Center: Plan2Fund**

**Description:** Plan2Fund is a Watershed Planning Tool developed and maintained by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Finance Center (EFC) at Boise State University. The tool walks users through estimating the costs of their Watershed Program Plan's Goals and Objective, assessing any local matching funds, and determining funding needs to meet their Goals and Objectives. Plan2Fund prompts users to enter specific information on their programs and then generates a series of reports based on that information. The results from Plan2Fund can be used to search for funding sources utilizing the Environmental Finance Center's internet-based [Directory of Watershed Resources](#). The Directory of Watershed Resources is described in this section of the Guidebook.

**Reference for Further Information:** See <http://sspa.boisestate.edu/efc/> and click on "Plan2Fund – New Budgeting and Planning Tool Available" under "What's New," or go directly to Plan2Fund at: [http://sspa.boisestate.edu/efc/Tools\\_Services/Plan2Fund/plan2fund.htm](http://sspa.boisestate.edu/efc/Tools_Services/Plan2Fund/plan2fund.htm). For information or assistance, or to request a Plan2Fund CD, call the Boise State EFC toll free at 866-627-9847. See the description of the Boise State EFC (above).

## **Boise State University Environmental Finance Center: CAPFinance**

**Description:** CAPFinance is an easy-to-use, icon-driven software program that helps public and private water systems with their financial decision-making. It was developed by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's Environmental Finance Center (EFC) at Boise State University. The reason for its development is because small water systems often have trouble estimating and budgeting for future replacement costs. The program helps local officials to understand the impacts of funding capital replacement, and it provides a simple method of analyzing funding options for renewal and replacement of assets. System management in CAPFinance can set the reserve accumulation goal for every component and subcomponent of the water system.

CAPFinance forecasts capital financing needs for 25 years or more. The program helps water utilities inventory capital infrastructure facilities and discover financing requirements, offering unlimited “pay now” or “pay later” scenarios. It produces a report with a detailed view of the future replacement costs and goals for each and every system component. The output from the program can be integrated into financial decision making such as rate setting and capital planning. This planning can help the water supply system to meet customer demands, maintain quality of service, maintain compliance with provisions of Safe Drinking Water Act, and secure the financial resources necessary to fund these efforts.

**Reference for Further Information:** For information on CAPFinance, or to download a CAPFinance Demo, see the Boise State University EFC's web site at [http://sspa.boisestate.edu/efc/Tools\\_Services/CAPFinance.htm](http://sspa.boisestate.edu/efc/Tools_Services/CAPFinance.htm). CAPFinance can also be acquired in CD form by contacting Crystal Morehead at the Boise State University EFC by e-mail at [cmorehea@boisestate.edu](mailto:cmorehea@boisestate.edu) or by phone at 208-426-1567.

## **Finance Charrettes**

**Description:** A “finance charrette” is a forum where a regulated entity meets with a panel of finance experts from the public and private sectors, and those experts offer advice and recommendations on finance issues faced by that entity. Adapted by the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center for environmental finance problem solving, the charrette process employs an advisory panel of finance, planning and engineering experts, as well as federal and state officials, who help communities create solutions to their environmental management problems. Charrettes provide a direct mechanism for ensuring meaningful, constructive two-way communication, in this case between higher levels of government and local communities. Typically a charrette lasts a half day beginning with a description of the problems by, for example, officials from a local government. This is followed by question and answer sessions with the panel, and report out by panel members on the actions they recommend as individuals and as a group. The proceedings are taped and the results summarized.

**Reference for Further Information:** University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center Website: [www.efc.umd.edu/charrette.html](http://www.efc.umd.edu/charrette.html), E-mail: [efc@umd.edu](mailto:efc@umd.edu). Also see the description of the University of Maryland Environmental Finance Center in this section of the Guidebook.

## **Border Environmental Cooperation Commission**

**Description:** The Border Environmental Cooperation Commission (BECC) was created within the context of the North American Free Trade Agreement process and is a sister agency to the North American Development Bank (NADBank). The BECC reviews proposals for environmental projects in the region along the US-Mexico border and certifies them for loan funding by the NADBank (see Section 2.B. of the Guidebook, North American Development Bank). Environmental areas emphasized by the BECC include municipal solid waste management and wastewater treatment. The purpose of the BECC is to help preserve, protect, and enhance the environment of the border region and to achieve sustainable development.

The BECC's operating budget is funded by contributions from Mexico, through the Secretariat of the Environment and Natural Resources, and from the United States, through the Department of State and the Environmental Protection Agency. In addition to its operating budget, the BECC manages the Project Development Assistance Program (PDAP), which receives funding from the United States Environmental Protection Agency. This program allows the BECC to provide border communities with grant funds for water and wastewater projects.

**Reference for Further Information:** Border Environmental Cooperation Commission (BECC) Website: <http://www.cocef.org>, E-Mail: [becc@cocef.interjuarez.com](mailto:becc@cocef.interjuarez.com). NADBank Website: <http://www.nadb.org/>.

## **Rural Community Assistance Corporation**

**Description:** The Rural Community Assistance Corporation (RCAC) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to helping rural communities achieve their goals and visions by providing training, technical assistance, and access to resources. Most RCAC services are provided to low income people and communities with populations fewer than 50,000. Working with governments and community organizations in rural areas, RCAC provides a wide range of development assistance involving housing, environmental services, financial assistance, and information and outreach. RCAC has a loan fund that provides loans to water and wastewater treatment facilities. The five major categories of assistance that RCAC provides to small municipal and nonprofit water systems, wastewater systems and solid waste management programs are Technical Assistance, Managerial Assistance, Financial Assistance, Networks and Advocacy, Publications, and Training. RCAC's publications are available on its Website.

**Reference for Further Information:** Rural Community Assistance Corporation Website: <http://www.rcac.org/>, E-mail: [rcacmail@rcac.org](mailto:rcacmail@rcac.org), Phone: 916-447-2854.

## Self-Help

**Description:** Self-help is an “in the field” strategy supported by many State government and nongovernmental organizations that helps small communities help themselves in solving their environmental problems. Self-help has proven a highly effective, low-cost approach to providing environmental services and achieving compliance in small communities. It depends heavily on local residents to contribute their time, labor and, on occasion, material and equipment in getting the job done. A local project coordinator or “sparkplug” is essential to success. In the self-help paradigm, State and federal agencies are called upon to move to supporting roles by providing outreach and technical services. The approach offers a proven, viable local alternative to addressing local environmental problems that holds down costs, sizes technology to needs, builds local capacity, and supports community independence. Self-help projects can be implemented in a very timely manner due to the lack of bureaucratic red tape.

**Reference for Further Information:** The Self-Help Handbook for Small Town Water and Wastewater Projects, Schautz, Jane W.; and Conway, Christopher M., Rensselaerville Institute, 1995, available through the Rensselaerville Institute, Rensselaerville, NY, Website: <http://www.rinstitute.org/shopping/index.php?productID=123>, Phone # 518-797-3783.

## Circuit Riders

**Description:** A circuit rider is a dedicated expert who travels on some established regular basis to a number of participating individuals and organizations to provide hands-on technical assistance, professional services, and education. The circuit rider can be either an independent entrepreneur contracting with the participants individually or as a group, or an employee of the participant group acting cooperatively. Furthermore, the circuit rider can work either full or part-time depending on the number of systems participating and the assistance and services provided.

For example, several publicly or privately owned water or other environmental systems may agree to jointly obtain administrative, management, technical, or other services from a common source to meet their common needs. The common source, the circuit rider, addresses the common need such as the collection of samples from each system and delivery of the batch to a lab for testing.

**Reference for Further Information:** For information on the Ohio T2 Center Circuit Rider Program, see <http://www.dot.state.oh.us/LTAP/ltapfaq.htm>, or call them at 614-387-7359, or toll free from locations in Ohio at 877-800-0031. For information on the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection Circuit Rider Program, see <http://www.mass.gov/dep/water/compliance/cridr.htm>, phone # 617-292-5500. To find Circuit Rider Programs in other States, see the Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) Website at <http://www.ecos.org/section/states>. The Websites of the environmental offices of all U.S. States can be accessed through the ECOS Website.

## Cooperatives

**Description:** A cooperative is an independent association of people and/or groups voluntarily united to meet common needs through a jointly owned and democratically operated venture. For example, several publicly and/or privately owned environmental systems could agree to jointly share administrative, management and technical resources in providing common environmental services. The resulting cost savings are either passed along to users, reinvested in the cooperative venture, or returned to the member systems.

Cooperatives are set up to provide/receive just about any good or service including: business services, financial services, employment, equipment and farm supplies, insurance, legal and professional services, the marketing of agricultural and other products, and utilities. They are organized in one of three ways: producer-owned, consumer-owned, or worker owned. Cooperatives allow systems to pool not just their resources, but also their technical expertise and knowledge regarding outside sources of assistance.

**Reference for Further Information:** See the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Business and Cooperative Programs Website at <http://www.rurdev.usda.gov/rbs/index.html>. Information is also available on the National Cooperatives Business Association Website at <http://www.cooperative.org>.

## Drinking Water State Revolving Fund Capacity Development

**Description:** The 1996 Amendments to the Safe Drinking Water Act (SDWA) authorize the Drinking Water State Revolving Fund (DWSRF) and spell out requirements for states to prepare capacity development strategies for community drinking water distribution systems. The term “capacity development” refers to a state effort to help drinking water systems meet the requirements of the 1996 SDWA so that they can qualify for DWSRF funds. Each state is required under the SDWA to develop and administer its own capacity development plan.

All communities applying for DWSRF funds must demonstrate that their water systems have met SDWA capacity development requirements. Capacity development provides a flexible framework within which states and water distribution systems work together to ensure that the water systems acquire and maintain the appropriate infrastructure, and the necessary technical, financial, and managerial capacity, to meet those requirements. This helps to ensure that drinking water systems provide safe drinking water consistently, reliably, and cost-effectively.

**Reference for Further Information:** The federal capacity development strategy is outlined in Section 1420 of the 1996 SDWA Amendments. Section-by-section summaries, as well as the full text, of the 1996 SDWA Amendments can be found on the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Website at [http://www.epa.gov/safewater/sdwa/laws\\_statutes.html](http://www.epa.gov/safewater/sdwa/laws_statutes.html). For additional information on the SDWA, see <http://www.epa.gov/safewater/sdwa/index.html>. The full text of the 1996 SDWA Amendments is also available on GPO Access. Go to <http://www.gpoaccess.gov/> and search on “Public Law 104-182.”

### **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: Water and Wastewater Pricing Website**

**Description:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Water and Wastewater Pricing Website is a valuable source of technical and training information geared towards water systems operators, local utilities, and state and local regulators. It focuses on the “four pillars” of efficient water use and distribution, which are: enhancing utility management, saving water through efficiency measures, cooperative ventures via the watershed approach, and full cost pricing. Full cost pricing plays an important role in providing the public with clean and safe water.

EPA defines full cost pricing as “factoring all costs- past and future, operations, maintenance, and capital costs- into prices.” This approach is important to meeting the infrastructure needs of America. The site describes six different types of full cost pricing, and a type of pricing called “lifeline pricing” designed to make water more affordable for low income households. The four types of pricing described on the site as being most effective in encouraging conservation are increasing block rates, time of day pricing, water surcharges, and seasonal rates. The two types described as being less effective in encouraging water conservation are uniform rate structures and flat fee rates.

**Reference for Further Information:** Water and Wastewater Pricing Website:  
<http://www.epa.gov/water/infrastructure/pricing/index.htm>.

### **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: Enforcement Economic Models**

**Description:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)'s Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance has developed and maintains enforcement economic models to analyze the financial aspects of environmental enforcement actions. The five models currently available include: ABEL, INDIPAY, MUNIPAY, BEN, and PROJECT. These models evaluate and calculate factors such as costs, economic savings, or ability to afford costs for a variety of regulated entities. ABEL evaluates a corporation's or partnership's ability to afford compliance costs, cleanup costs, and/or civil penalties. INDIPAY and MUNIPAY evaluate the ability of individuals and local governments/regional utilities respectively to afford compliance costs, cleanup costs, and/or civil penalties. ABEL, INDIPAY, and UNIPAY are useful tools to generate information for negotiations. BEN calculates a violator's economic savings from delaying and/or avoiding pollution control expenditures. PROJECT calculates the real cost to a defendant of a proposed supplemental environmental project.

**Reference for Further Information:** To view information on the models, or to download the models, see the EPA Office of Enforcement and Compliance Assurance Website at <http://www.epa.gov/compliance/civil/econmodels/index.html>. For installation help, assistance in using the models, or advice in understanding their outputs, call the EPA Enforcement Economic Models Helpline, staffed by an Agency contractor, at 888-ECONSPT or 888-326-6778, or e-mail the Helpline at [benabel@indecon.com](mailto:benabel@indecon.com).

## **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: Green Power Locator**

**Description:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Green Power Locator is an online database of information on sources of green power in the United States. The database was created by, and is administered by, the EPA Office of Air and Radiation's Green Power Partnership. EPA defines green power as "electricity that is partially or entirely generated from environmentally preferable renewable energy sources such as solar, wind, geothermal, biomass, biogas, and low impact hydro."

The Green Power Locator is a useful tool for advancing the use of green power. The ways of purchasing green power covered in the database include utility green pricing programs (described in Guidebook Section 8) and renewable energy certificates. As its use becomes more widespread through the use of the types of programs advertised in the database, green power is becoming an increasingly cost effective alternative to electricity generated from fossil fuels.

**Reference for Further Information:** Green Power Locator Website:  
<http://www.epa.gov/greenpower/locator/index.htm>.

## **U.S. Department of Energy: Financial Opportunities Website**

**Description:** The U.S. Department of Energy's Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy (EERE) offers federal financial assistance to businesses, industries, universities, states, tribes, and others for the development and demonstration of renewable energy and energy efficient technologies. EERE's Financial Opportunities Website helps eligible parties to find and apply for the financial assistance that EERE offers. The Website also provides direct links to current and past solicitations of specific financial awards for businesses, industries, and universities.

| The specific types of financial assistance opportunities described on the Website include grants, cooperative agreements, continuation and renewal awards, unsolicited proposals, cooperative research and development agreements, laboratory subcontracts and sub awards. The Website also provides information on several financing measures to help federal energy managers pay for energy related projects, including performance contracts, services contracts, and state and local energy efficiency incentive programs.

**Reference for Further Information:** See the Financial Opportunities Website at <http://www.eere.energy.gov/finacing/>. Funding and award process questions can be directed to the Office of Program Execution Support, EERE, ee-3A/Forrestal Building, DOE, Washington, DC 20585, (202) 586-9957 or (202) 586-8180. Also see additional information about specific financial awards at [www.grants.gov](http://www.grants.gov).

## **U.S. Department of Energy Alternative Fuels Data Center: State and Federal Incentives and Laws Website**

**Description:** The U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Alternative Fuels Data Center is a large online collection of information on alternative fuels and the vehicles that use them. The alternative fuels described in the Data Center are those defined by the [Energy Policy Act of 1992](#). The fuels include biodiesel, electricity (when used to power vehicles), ethanol, hydrogen, methanol, natural gas, and propane.

The “State and Federal Incentives and Laws” Website gives access to the incentives that governments provide to encourage people to reduce oil consumption through the use of alternative fuels and vehicles. It also allows access to the laws and regulations that governments use to ensure that transportation fuels are used in safe and efficient ways. Finally, the Website provides access to points of contact in Federal departments/agencies, the States, the District of Columbia, the Virgin Islands, and Puerto Rico. Contributors to the Website include the U.S. Department of Energy, U.S. Department of Transportation, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, trade associations, professional societies, auto manufacturers, fuel providers, and universities.

**Reference for Further Information:** See the Alternative Fuels Data Center’s State and Federal Incentives and Laws Website at: [http://www.eere.energy.gov/afdc/laws/incen\\_laws.html](http://www.eere.energy.gov/afdc/laws/incen_laws.html).

## **National Technical Assistance Programs**

**Description:** There are a growing number of national nonprofit technical assistance programs that facilitate the financing and implementation of environmental projects and programs. Such programs can include non-profit organizations ranging from environmental media-based associations to community-focused groups. They can also include university-based groups, professional associations and organizations, and cooperative networks.

Some examples of this type of organization include the American Waterworks Association, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) network of nine university-based Environmental Finance Centers (EFCs), the National Rural Water Association, the Rural Community Assistance Programs, and the National Environmental Services Center. Many national technical assistance programs have accumulated considerable experience and developed significant technical expertise in dealing with communities and their environmental and financing problems.

**Reference for Further Information:** American Water Works Association (AWWA) Website: <http://www.awwa.org/>, Phone: 303-794-7711. U.S. EPA Environmental Finance Center (EFC) Network Website: [www.epa.gov/efinpage](http://www.epa.gov/efinpage), Phone: 202-564-5001. National Rural Water Association (NRWA) Website: <http://www.nrwa.org/>, Phone: 580-252-0629. Rural Community Assistance Programs (RCAP) Website: <http://www.rcap.org/>, Phone: 202-408-1273 and 888-321-7227. National Environmental Services Center (NESC) Website: <http://www.nesc.wvu.edu/>, Phone: (800) 624-8301 and (304) 293-4191. Also see the descriptions of the EFC Network, the NRWA, and the NESC in this section of the Guidebook.

## **National Rural Water Association**

**Description:** The National Rural Water Association (NRWA) is a nonprofit organization made up of State Rural Water Associations. The NRWA provides support services to its State Associations, who have more than 24,550 water and wastewater systems as members. The utilities that are members of NRWA serve populations of 10,000 or less, which represents 94% of all water systems in America.

NRWA's State Rural Water Associations offer a variety of state specific programs, services, and member benefits. Additionally, each State Association provides training programs and on-site assistance in the areas of operation, maintenance, finance, and governance to water and wastewater system personnel. Also, the NRWA operates the International Rural Water Association (IRWA). The IRWA's mission is to help improve water quality and, in turn, public health, in developing countries. The IRWA's primary goal is to make available the economic distribution of water treatment, training, and technical assistance to people in rural communities.

**Reference for Further Information:** National Rural Water Association Website: <http://www.nrwa.org/>, E-mail: [info@nrwa.org](mailto:info@nrwa.org), Phone: 580-252-0629.

## **Rocky Mountain Institute**

**Description:** The Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) is an entrepreneurial nonprofit organization that fosters the efficient and restorative use of resources. RMI works with businesses, civil society, and governments to design integrative solutions that help create long-term prosperity. It shows businesses, communities, individuals, and governments ways to create wealth and employment, protect and enhance natural and human capital, increase profit and competitive advantage, and enjoy many other benefits, largely by increasing the efficiency of their processes. RMI's work is independent and non-adversarial, with a strong emphasis on market-based solutions.

Since 1982, RMI has worked with corporations, governments, communities, and citizens to increase their resource efficiency, in turn increasing productivity and profits. Some of the environmental areas in which RMI has applied its efficiency expertise include household and commercial/industrial energy utilization; clean energy and climate protection; green development; public and private water use; water infrastructure and system planning, benefits, and costs; and stream restoration. RMI has provided a range of consulting and research advisory services in these and other areas. Senior RMI staff has addressed audiences at events and institutions such as the World Economic Forum, the World Bank, and the National Academy of Sciences. Senior staff has also provided private briefings or expert testimony to heads of state, corporate boards, utility commissions, top military leaders and staff colleges, elite business and law schools, and governmental advisory boards.

**Reference for Further Information:** Rocky Mountain Institute Website: <http://www.rmi.org/>.

## **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: Water Efficiency Market Enhancement Program**

**Description:** The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Water Efficiency Market Enhancement Program works to promote the use of more water-efficient products and practices in businesses and homes across the country. The Market Enhancement Program does this by reaching out to various organizations and fostering public-private partnerships. The Program seeks to help consumers and commercial/institutional buyers differentiate among products in the marketplace, helping them to buy the most water efficient products. In doing this, it strives to reduce water demand and realize major environmental, public health, and economic benefits by helping to improve water quality, maintaining aquatic ecosystems, and protecting drinking water resources. While this is a new EPA program, the Agency hopes to make water-efficient products and systems the preferred choice among consumers and buyers. The Market Enhancement Program has a list of products being evaluated for inclusion in the Program on its Website.

**Reference for Further Information:** Water Efficiency Market Enhancement Program Website [http://www.epa.gov/owm/water-efficiency/products\\_program.htm](http://www.epa.gov/owm/water-efficiency/products_program.htm), Phone 202-564-0637, Fax 202-501-2396, E-mail address [water\\_efficiency@epa.gov](mailto:water_efficiency@epa.gov).

## **Environmental Council of the States**

**Description:** The Environmental Council of the States (ECOS) is a national nonprofit, nonpartisan association of state and territorial environmental organization leaders. The objective of ECOS is to improve the capability of state environmental organizations and their leaders to protect and improve human health and the environment. The Council defines its role as: 1.) articulate, advocate, preserve, and champion the role of the states in environmental management; 2.) provide for the exchange of ideas, views, and experiences among states and with others; 3.) foster cooperation and coordination in environmental management, and 4.) articulate state positions to Congress, federal agencies, and the public on environmental issues.

Other than the general membership, ECOS is run by a 28 member executive committee led by four officers: a president, vice president, secretary/treasurer, and past president. ECOS has several finance related work groups: the ECOS-DOD Sustainability Work Group, the Energy Efficiency Subcommittee, the Funding Gap Work Group, and the Long Term Stewardship Work Group. ECOS's Website provides an information portal into every state environmental department/organization and thus into their financing operations. The Website is an information source on "financial tools" such as grants, loans, and environmental programs offered and administered on the state level.

**Reference for Further Information:** Environmental Council of the States Website: [www.ecos.org](http://www.ecos.org). The Website has a "contact us" form. ECOS phone #: 202-624-3660.

## Pollution Prevention Resource Exchange

**Description:** The Pollution Prevention Resource Exchange (P2Rx) is a national consortium of eight regional centers that provide states, local governments, and technical service providers with pollution prevention (P2) information, services, and networking opportunities. P2Rx is funded in part through grants from the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency. For P2Rx purposes, P2 means “source reduction,” as defined under the *Pollution Prevention Act of 1990*. Source reduction includes practices that reduce or eliminate pollution via improved efficiency in the use of raw materials, energy, water, or other resources. P2Rx disseminates information on topics including technologies, publications, green home design and construction, and tribal pollution prevention. Services P2Rx provides also include research assistance, and the maintenance of clearinghouse of P2 related requests for funding proposals available on its Website. The P2Rx Website also has a database of mercury reduction programs, a directory of P2 programs, and links to the eight regional centers.

**Reference for Further Information:** Pollution Prevention Resource Exchange Website: <http://www.p2rx.org/>, Phone: 402-552-6259. The full text of the *Pollution Prevention Act of 1990* is available via the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Website at <http://www.epa.gov/opptintr/p2home/p2policy/act1990.htm>.

## Energy Efficiency Organizations

**Description:** Energy Efficiency Organizations (EEOs) are non-governmental, non-profit organizations that provide energy efficiency-related information, education, outreach, and technical assistance. In some cases, they actively promote improved energy efficiency and the use of energy efficient practices, products and services. EEOs may be international, national, regional, or state-based in scope. There are many different types of organizations that can be classified as an EEO ranging from consortiums or alliances comprised of utilities, research organizations, and state energy offices to national housing coalitions, environmental organizations, and regional energy programs.

A significant amount of the work of EEOs directly impacts the environmental arena especially with regards to air pollution, climate change issues, and sustainable development. Some of the many possible examples of EEOs include the World Energy Efficiency Association, Alliance to Save Energy, American Council for an Energy Efficient Economy, Consortium for Energy Efficiency, Green Building Council, Sierra Club (energy), Northwest Energy Coalition, Colorado Energy, Sustainable Minnesota, and New Buildings Institute, Inc.

**Reference for Further Information:** Websites with links to lists of EEOs include <http://www.naima.org/pages/resources/links2.html>, <http://eetd.lbl.gov/eXroads/ngo.html>, <http://www.ecoiq.com/onlineresources/center/energy/efficiency/nonprofit.html>, and [www.eere.gov/EE/buildings-trade.html](http://www.eere.gov/EE/buildings-trade.html). A list of EEOs can also be acquired by going to [www.envirolink.org](http://www.envirolink.org) and searching on “energy efficiency organizations.”

## **U.S. Department of Energy: Industrial Assessment Centers**

**Description:** The [Industrial Assessment Centers](#) are a part of the U.S. Department of Energy Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy's Industrial Technologies Program (ITP), a program that leads national efforts to improve industrial energy efficiency, productivity, and environmental performance. The Centers provide eligible small and medium-sized manufacturers with comprehensive energy, waste, and productivity assessments free of charge. They then provide detailed recommendations to the manufacturers, helping them to identify opportunities to improve productivity, reduce waste, and save energy. Manufacturers have saved tens of thousands of dollars by implementing these recommendations.

The Centers are located at 26 universities throughout the United States. Teams of engineering faculty work with upper class undergraduate and graduate engineering students to perform the assessments. An advantage realized by the students through doing this work is that they receive unique hands-on assessment training and gain knowledge of industrial process systems, plant systems, and energy systems, making them effective energy professionals who are highly attractive to employers. In fact, with over 2,300 graduates, the Industrial Assessment Centers are a favorite resource of corporate recruiters for recruiting experienced energy engineers.

**Reference for Further Information:** See the Industrial Assessment Centers Website at <http://www.eere.energy.gov/industry/bestpractices/iacs.html> and the student/alumni Website at [www.iacforum.org](http://www.iacforum.org).

## **Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance**

**Description:** The [Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance](#) (CFDA) is an online database listing all federal programs, projects, services, and other initiatives providing financial benefits and other forms of assistance to the public. The CFDA contains detailed information on financial and non-financial assistance programs administered by departments, agencies, commissions, and other federal government establishments. Financial assistance programs listed in the CFDA include grants and loans, and non-financial assistance programs listed include loans of equipment and provision of specialized services. Information provided for each form of assistance includes program objectives, types of assistance, use and restrictions, eligibility requirements, application and award processes, and post assistance requirements. In addition, financial information such as range and average of financial assistance is provided, followed by program accomplishments; regulations, guidelines, and literature; information contacts, and examples of funded projects.

**Reference for Further Information:** Catalog of Federal Domestic Assistance Website: <http://12.46.245.173/cfda/cfda.html>. A printed copy of the Catalog may be purchased from the Government Printing Office (GPO) by calling toll free 1-866-512-1800 or by logging on to the GPO's website at <http://bookstore.gpo.gov/>.

## **Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy**

**Description:** The Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy (DSIRE), established in 1995, is a comprehensive electronic source of information on state, territorial, local, utility, and selected federal incentives that promote the use of renewable energy technologies. The renewable energy technologies it promotes include solar (active and passive), wind power, biomass; cogeneration, or combined heat & power (CHP); fuel cells, geothermal, hydroelectric, ocean thermal, and photovoltaics.

DSIRE is an ongoing project of the Interstate Renewable Energy Council (IREC), funded by the U.S. Department of Energy and managed by the North Carolina Solar Center. The Interstate Renewable Energy Council is a non-profit organization whose mission is to accelerate the use of renewable energy sources and technologies. The North Carolina Solar Center is a program of North Carolina State University's College of Engineering's Industrial Extension Service. It works to advance the use of renewable energy resources to ensure a sustainable economy.

**Reference for Further Information:** Database of State Incentives for Renewable Energy Website: <http://www.dsireusa.org/>. Contact information for the Interstate Renewable Energy Council, the U.S. Department of Energy, and North Carolina State University's Solar Center can be found on the DSIRE Website.

## **U.S. Environmental Protection Agency: Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection**

**Description:** The Catalog of Federal Funding Sources for Watershed Protection is a searchable online database of funding sources available for a range of different watershed protection activities. The Catalog contains information on more than 80 federal funding sources covering a wide variety of grant, loan and cost-sharing assistance programs. The Catalog's Website also has a link to "other funding sources" that provides users with an extensive listing of public and private sector sources, including publications and funding-related web sites, that could help secure additional sources of funding. The Catalog was created, and is administered, by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Office of Wetlands, Oceans, and Watersheds.

On the Website, the user has a choice of two different types of searches. One type of search is based on subject matter criteria, and the other is based on words in the title of the funding program. Criteria searches consist of the type of organization, type of assistance sought, and keywords. The information provided for each program in the Catalog includes contact information, funding history, typical past awards, eligibility requirements, application deadlines, and matching funds/criteria requirements.

**Reference for Further Information:** See the Catalog's Website at: <http://www.epa.gov/watershedfunding>, or alternatively, at <http://cfpub.epa.gov/fedfund/>.

## **Boise State University Environmental Finance Center: Directory of Watershed Resources**

**Description:** The Directory of Watershed Resources is a searchable online database for sources of watershed restoration funding. It produced and maintained by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) Environmental Finance Center (EFC) at Boise State University. The Directory includes information on funding programs from Federal, State (Oregon, Washington, Idaho, Alaska, Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island, and Vermont), and private sources, and from other sources as well. Users can query the information in a variety of ways, including agency source or keyword, or they can opt to do a more detailed search.

The Boise State EFC points out on its Website that this Directory is a work-in-progress. Information is added to it and updated regularly. The EFC strives to maintain the most current information, but it still recommends that users visit the funding program Websites or contact the funding program administrators for the most up-to-date information. The Environmental Finance Center at the University of North Carolina has also developed a similar database that includes funding information for Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Mississippi, North Carolina and South Carolina.

**Reference for Further Information:** See <http://sspa.boisestate.edu/efc/> and click on “Directory of Watershed Resources: Search online for Funding Sources” under “What’s New,” or go directly to the Directory of Watershed Resources at: <http://efc.boisestate.edu/>. Contact: Crystal Morehead at the Boise State EFC, Phone: (208)426-1567, E-mail: [cmorehea@boisestate.edu](mailto:cmorehea@boisestate.edu). There is a description of the Boise State EFC in this section of the Guidebook.